



# The First Year Experience Update

November 2012



Peer Architect **Katie Jefferson** working with first-year student **Angelica Resendiz**

## **Katie Jefferson reflects on her experience as a Peer Architect**

It gives me great pleasure to provide assistance to a students in need of help. I enjoy being able to provide tools for them to succeed in the future. I could really pick out the students in our class that needed help, although they did not say it. I understand what it is like to be afraid to ask for help, so I generally can tell when someone is not doing well or not caring as much as they should. I do not want students to make the mistakes that I have made in college. I enjoy when a student e-mails me or calls me. It is a great feeling to give someone help.

The SLS 1515 course provides an insight for students in understanding what motivates them, exploring their personality and their major in college. The students are introduced to different learning styles and taught how to manage their time. They also learn how to communicate effectively and think critically.

The students are given the opportunity to locate and use resources that the college provides for them through the Passport assignment. The students are taught how to be successful in life and both the instructor and other students share successful experiences. Failure is not an option. The value of the course content can last an eternity for the student. The Student receives knowledge; applying it in the real world is when they receive the true understanding of the lesson.



**Mike Nisson**

Professor of Criminal Justice and Cornerstone Instructor



A **Peer Architect** is a student leader that accompanies each class section of the Cornerstone Experience course. Peer Architects receive leadership and facilitation training from the FYE Office and are in the classroom to model positive student behavior and to support the professor. Peer Architects are also available to assist students outside the classroom. They provide academic success supports such as study skills, technology assistance, and much more.

# F Y E

# First Year Experience

So far this term the FYE office has had over 1,000 visits to include...

- 300 visits attending workshops / events.
- 176 visits seeking technology assistance.
- 154 visits seeking assistance from Peer Architects.



First-year students engaging with each other, Peer Architects (student mentors), faculty, and staff at FYE's Tie Dye event. Students were asked to bring their own t-shirt or they could win one by playing a game.

FYE students volunteered over **210 hours** during October. Pictured to the right, Edison volunteers at the **Imaginarium**. Students helped throw the Boo Bash party by painting faces, running the Hurricane Room, presenting science experiments, and much more.



Pictured above, students take part in **Frosh Mosh**, a newly created club designed for first year students.

